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January 17, 2001



Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: **UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b)**
Inventor: SU et al.
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REDUCING THE PARACHUTING OF A PROBE
Assignee: Veeco Instruments Inc.
Express Mail Label No. EL516555315US
Attorney Docket No.: 1067.037

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is our check in the amount of \$710.00 in payment of the government filing fee for the enclosed United States Patent Application, which Application includes 13 pages of specification, 20 claims, Abstract of the Disclosure, 12 sheets of drawings, and an executed Declaration.

Also enclosed is an Assignment, which was executed concurrently with the Declaration and which is being filed concurrently with the application, a recordation cover sheet, and our \$40.00 check in payment of the recording fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew C. Loppnow
Reg. No. 45,314

Certification Under 37 CFR 1.10

Express Mail Label No: EL516555315US

Date of Deposit: January 17, 2001

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service in "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Angela M. Weinstock